

# Traffic Safety Facts

2004 Data

## Large Trucks

In 2004, 416,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,862 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,190 people died (12% of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2004) and an additional 116,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 2003, large trucks accounted for 3 percent of all registered vehicles and 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled (2004 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2004, large trucks accounted for 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes and 4 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes.

One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2004 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

*“One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2004 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”*

Table 1  
**Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1994-2004**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1994	4,644	6,587,885	70.49	170,216	2.73
1995	4,472	6,719,421	66.55	178,156	2.51
1996	4,755	7,012,615	67.81	182,971	2.60
1997	4,917	7,083,326	69.42	191,477	2.57
1998	4,955	7,732,270	64.08	196,380	2.52
1999	4,920	7,791,426	63.15	202,688	2.43
2000	4,995	8,022,649	62.26	205,520	2.43
2001	4,823	7,857,675	61.38	209,032	2.31
2002	4,587	7,927,280	57.86	214,603	2.14
2003	4,721	7,912,018	59.67	215,884	2.19
2004	4,862	—	—	—	—
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1994	96,000	6,587,885	1,452	170,216	56
1995	84,000	6,719,421	1,244	178,156	47
1996	94,000	7,012,615	1,339	182,971	51
1997	96,000	7,083,326	1,349	191,477	50
1998	89,000	7,732,270	1,146	196,380	45
1999	101,000	7,791,426	1,292	202,688	50
2000	101,000	8,022,649	1,253	205,520	49
2001	90,000	7,857,675	1,143	209,032	43
2002	94,000	7,927,280	1,189	214,603	44
2003	89,000	7,912,018	1,122	215,884	41
2004	87,000	—	—	—	—

\*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles. \*\*Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.  
 — = not available. Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles — Federal Highway Administration.

Among those killed in crashes involving large trucks, 77 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 15 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of those injured in crashes involving large trucks, 73 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 3 percent were nonoccupants, and 24 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2

**Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2004**

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	761	15
<b>Single-Vehicle Crashes</b>	466	9
<b>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</b>	295	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	4,006	77
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	423	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>100</b>
Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	27,000	23
<b>Single-Vehicle Crashes</b>	13,000	11
<b>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</b>	14,000	12
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	85,000	73
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	4,000	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>100</b>

*“In 2004, large trucks were 3.2 times as likely as other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.”*

Large trucks were much more likely to be involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash — as opposed to a fatal single-vehicle crash — than were passenger vehicles (84% of all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 62% of all passenger vehicles).

In 28 percent of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were impacted in the front. The truck was struck in the rear 3.2 times more often than the other vehicle (19% and 6%, respectively).

Table 3

**Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2003**

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				Total
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	
Front	28%	17%	14%	6%	65%
Left Side	8%	1%	1%	0%	10%
Right Side	5%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Rear	18%	1%	0%	0%	19%
Total	59%	20%	15%	6%	100%

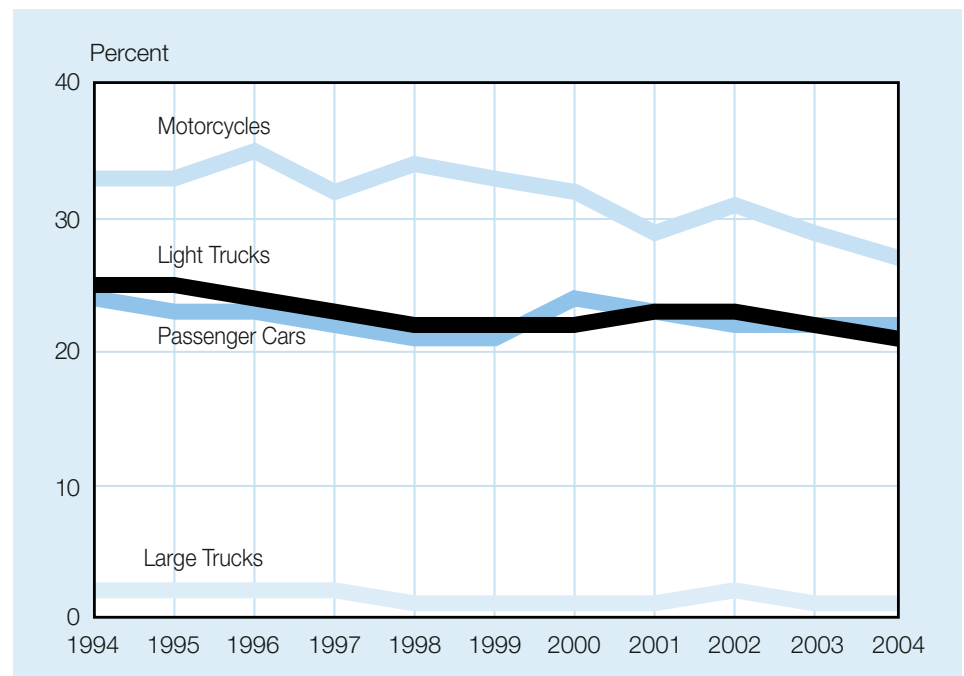
In half (50%) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 10 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 8 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (6% and 2%, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (66%), during the daytime (67%), and on weekdays (80%). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.). On weekends, 62 percent occurred at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.).

The percentage of drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 1 percent in 2004. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2004, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 22 percent for passenger cars, 21 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

*“In 2004, 1 percent of drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels above .08.”*

Figure 1  
**Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher, 1994-2004**



*“Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.”*

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (7% and 13%, respectively).

More than one-fourth (26%) of all drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2004 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 19 percent of the passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 2  
**Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2004**

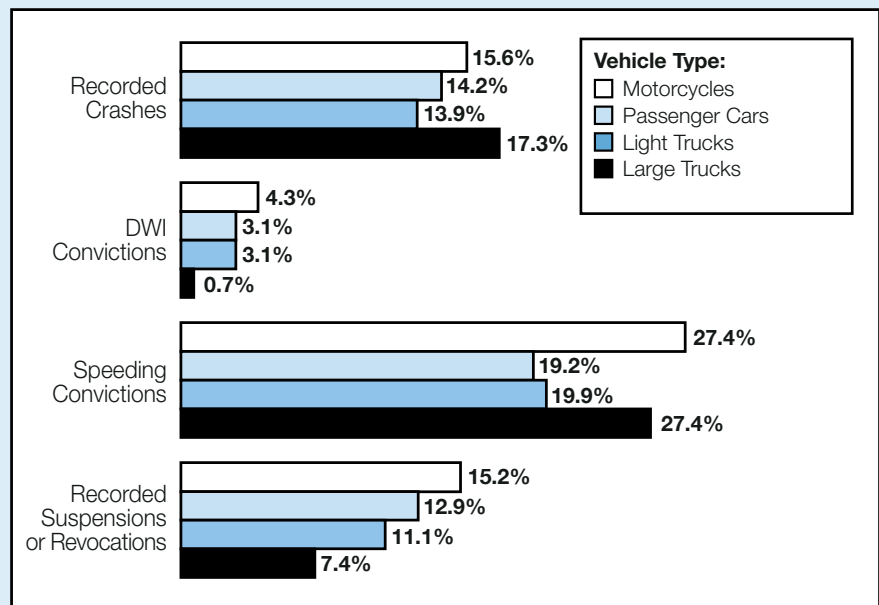


Table 4  
**Large Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2004**

State	Total Vehicles Involved in Fatal Crashes	Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes		
		Number	Percentage of Total Vehicles	Percentage of U.S. Total for Large Trucks
Alabama	1,547	135	8.7	2.8
Alaska	141	13	9.2	0.3
Arizona	1,529	102	6.7	2.1
Arkansas	926	93	10.0	1.9
California	5,695	381	6.7	7.8
Colorado	954	64	6.7	1.3
Connecticut	415	27	6.5	0.6
Delaware	193	18	9.3	0.4
Dist of Columbia	70	5	7.1	0.1
Florida	4,583	359	7.8	7.4
Georgia	2,363	233	9.9	4.8
Hawaii	187	4	2.1	0.1
Idaho	339	29	8.6	0.6
Illinois	1,897	151	8.0	3.1
Indiana	1,355	166	12.3	3.4
Iowa	548	60	10.9	1.2
Kansas	625	85	13.6	1.7
Kentucky	1,316	123	9.3	2.5
Louisiana	1,267	99	7.8	2.0
Maine	256	18	7.0	0.4
Maryland	872	76	8.7	1.6
Massachusetts	619	39	6.3	0.8
Michigan	1,682	115	6.8	2.4
Minnesota	811	66	8.1	1.4
Mississippi	1,136	84	7.4	1.7
Missouri	1,498	145	9.7	3.0
Montana	275	15	5.5	0.3
Nebraska	352	41	11.6	0.8
Nevada	535	28	5.2	0.6
New Hampshire	238	13	5.5	0.3
New Jersey	1,094	87	8.0	1.8
New Mexico	628	58	9.2	1.2
New York	2,007	128	6.4	2.6
North Carolina	2,161	182	8.4	3.7
North Dakota	136	13	9.6	0.3
Ohio	1,820	179	9.8	3.7
Oklahoma	1,009	97	9.6	2.0
Oregon	585	47	8.0	1.0
Pennsylvania	2,103	209	9.9	4.3
Rhode Island	115	5	4.3	0.1
South Carolina	1,357	102	7.5	2.1
South Dakota	235	17	7.2	0.3
Tennessee	1,727	141	8.2	2.9
Texas	4,887	423	8.7	8.7
Utah	373	26	7.0	0.5
Vermont	127	12	9.4	0.2
Virginia	1,218	95	7.8	2.0
Washington	752	52	6.9	1.1
West Virginia	567	61	10.8	1.3
Wisconsin	1,081	94	8.7	1.9
Wyoming	208	47	22.6	1.0
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>58,414</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	625	26	4.2	100.0

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

**For more information:**

Information on large truck traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-101, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa). To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Overview, Alcohol, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Speeding, Young Drivers, Children, Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, Motorcycles, School Transportation-Related Crashes, State Traffic Data, and State Alcohol Estimates*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*.